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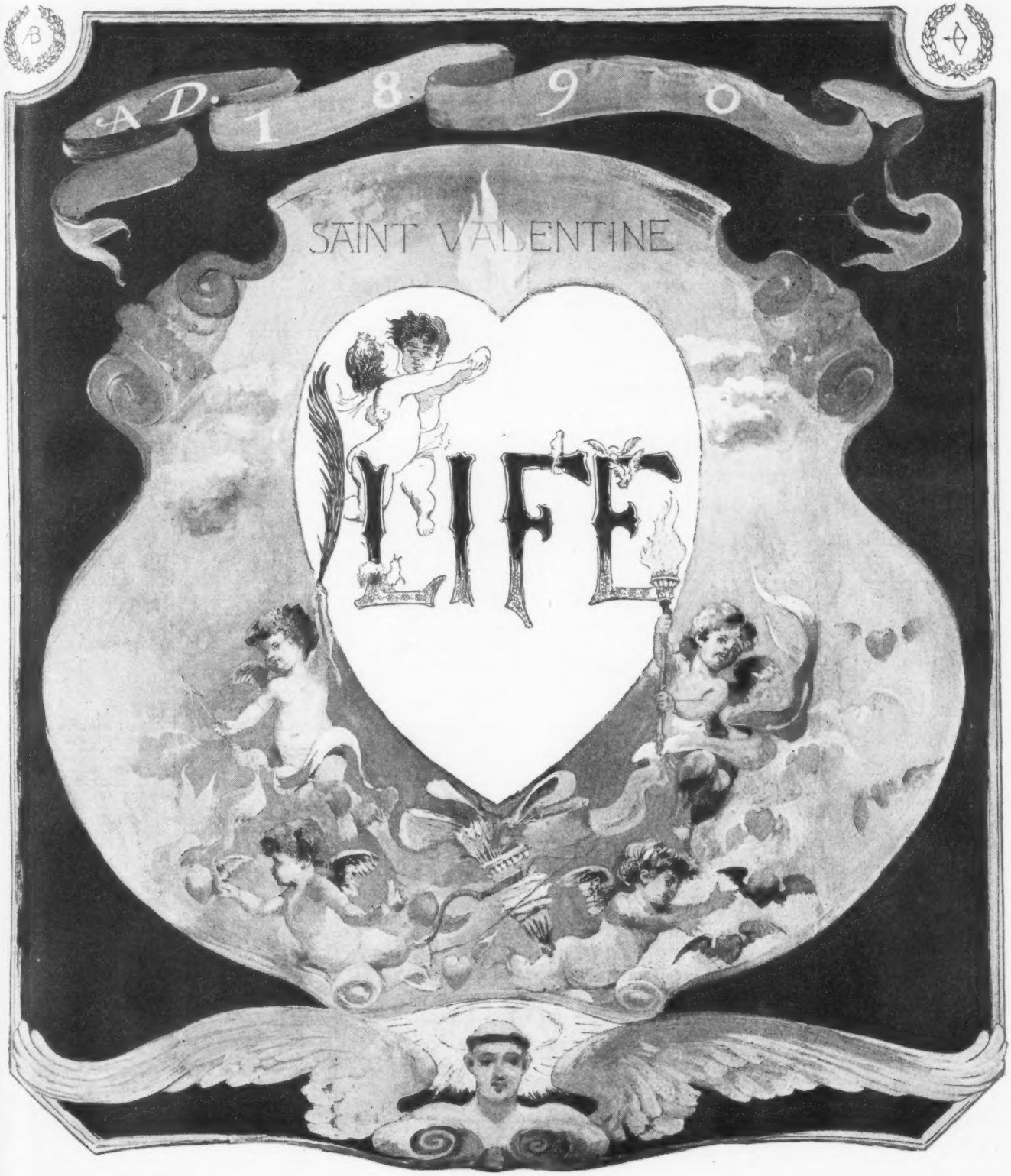

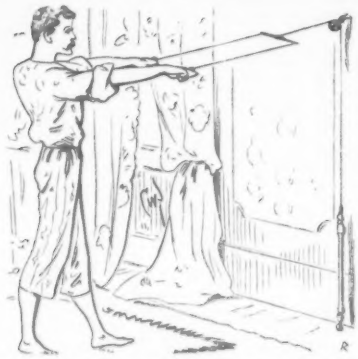

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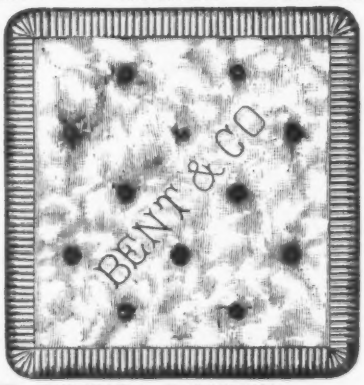
BENT'S WATER WAFERS.



NEW, DELICATE, DELICIOUS.

FOR SALE BY ALL GROCERS.

VOLUME XV. · LIFE · NUMBER 372.

A TIP.

ST. VALENTINE'S the favorite
Of maidens in the race:
But still I'll back (and pay for it)
St. Dives for a place.

THE DIFFERENCE.

THE Chicago owl says: "To wit, to who." The Boston owl says: "To wit, to whom."

A HOWLING SUCCESS—The prosperous newsboy.

ABSENT-MINDED.

Jawkins (after long absence from Chicago): AND SO JONES HAS GOT MARRIED SINCE I WENT AWAY?
She: WHY, OF COURSE, DIDN'T YOU KNOW IT?—TO ONE OF THE SMITH GIRLS—THE VERY FAMILY YOU MARRIED INTO!
Jawkins (dreamily): YOU DON'T SAY; IT WASN'T THE GIRL I MARRIED, WAS IT? OR WAS IT HER SISTER?

"While there's Life there's Hope."

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THE inevitable invasion of the home life of public men makes a sort of public property even in their private griefs. To thousands of American homes over which had fallen the shadow of Secretary Blaine's repeated bereavements the news of the overwhelming blow that had fallen upon Secretary Tracy came with a painful shock. Mr. Blaine lately said that he had been greatly comforted by the fellow-feeling expressed for him in the loss of his son. Both he and Mr. Tracy will be able to test how far a great wave of public sympathy can alleviate the sting of private and personal loss.

* * *

AT the time of this writing it is a little too soon to pronounce authoritatively which of several gentlemen, lately interested in the Sixth National Bank, are entitled to be ranked as Napoleons of Finance. No doubt, however, exists in the public mind that the grade has been won and that in a complete and overwhelming manner.

* * *

MUCH has been said in disparagement of the virtue of the bank cashier. Note, if you please, the convincing imputations that the cashier of the Sixth National was an honest man.

* * *

IT is instructive to hear it reported that the excuse given by the Sixth National Bank plunderers to Mr. Leland for offering him an excessive price for bank stock was a hint that it was wanted by an English syndicate. The contemporary American must learn to suspect that when a nebulous British syndicate offers him six figures for his grandmother's grave somebody is in danger of being cheated. A simple application of the golden rule is all that is needed to regulate his ensuing conduct.

* * *

SOME of Mr. Cleveland's critics are fond of dwelling upon his ingratitude, and accuse him of the saddest neglect of obligations of friendship and politics. There is a little passage in the final installment of the "Life of Lincoln," in the last *Century*, which such critics ought to note. It is very short—the mere record that Mr. Lincoln "said one day, with a flash of cynical wisdom worthy of Rochefoucauld, that honest statesmanship was the employment of individual meannesses for the public good."

* * *

BESIDES maintaining a dispute in the courts, Mr. E. H. House and Mr. Mark Twain are having a good deal of fun with one another in the newspapers. Mr. Twain's organ is the *Hartford Courant*, which published a Twain interview the other day, purporting to give some facts about the lawsuit. Our neighbor, the *New York Times*, found room for Mr. House's repartee, and, without venturing any opinion on the merits of the question, it seems safe to affirm that Mr. House was ahead when he left off. The eminent Nutmeg humorist seems in these days to be pretty constantly on his defense. He has hardly parried the underhand attempt of the authors to extort a copyright reading from him when Mr. House fetches this lunge at his ribs. And then there are the *Saturday Review*, the world, the flesh and the pirate publisher always at him. LIFE'S sympathy is much with Mr. Twain in these trials, but, of course, without disparagement of Mr. House.

* * *

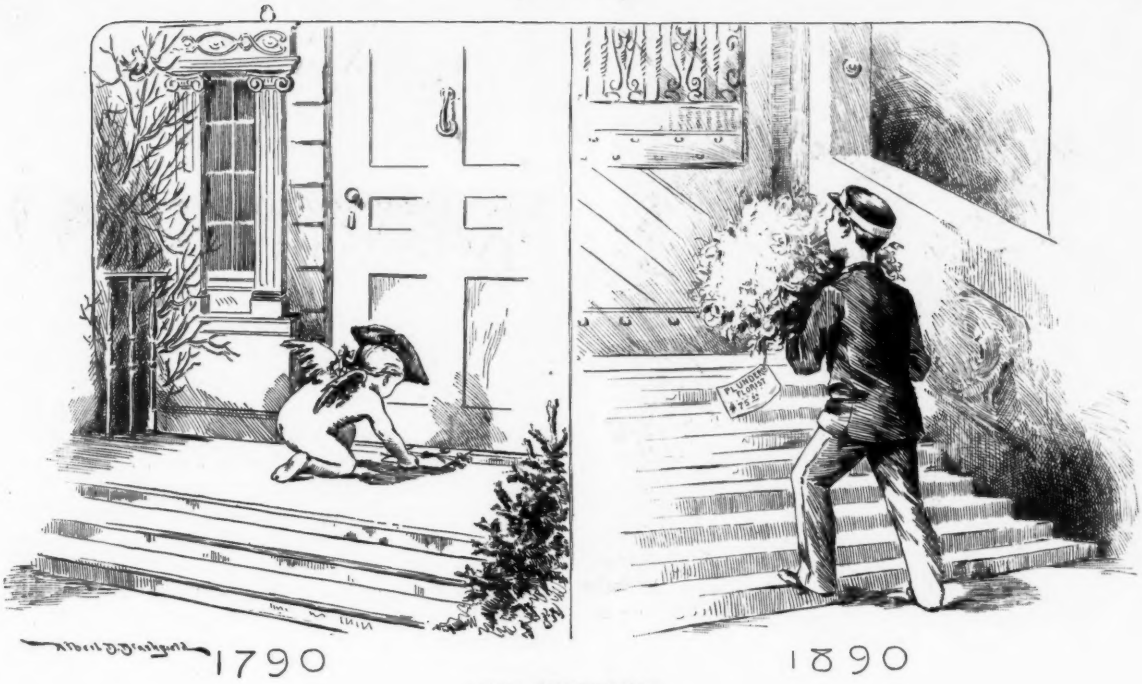
"WHAT a noble thing it is," wrote Mr. C. D. Warner, in his note of regrets to the Browning memorial meeting in Boston, "that you thus honor a poet—only a poet. I should think it significant of a change in public ideas." Mr. Warner, who is a worldly person who writes prose only for cash at a high rate of remuneration, will please take notice of the current report that an American poet in good standing lately received a thousand dollars for a single short piece that he contributed to a popular American weekly journal.

* * *

THERE is too much disposition to decry poetry as a commodity, the production of which is inadequately recompensed. That is a great mistake. Mr. Warner can safely wager the price of a couple of columns of his best prose that if poetry did not pay and poets were not held in very high consideration there would not be such a constant squeeze to get verses into the magazines.

* * *

MR. HOWELLS will need another new wig. He is accused of having said the other day that there was nothing left of Dr. Johnson but Boswell, and the contemporary press has since been illustrated with handfuls of his hair. One of a set of sworn resolutions that LIFE filed at the beginning of this year was not to say anything unkind about Mr. Howells, but to leave that to him. Otherwise, it might be in order to point out that as a target for the sarcastic American paragrapher he is next in importance to the *London Saturday Review*.



THE DIFFERENCE.

THE HOT-WATER CURE.

Old Mr. Cumso: THE DOCTOR CERTAINLY TOLD ME TO DRINK HOT WATER ONE HOUR BEFORE MEALS, AND HERE I HAVE ONLY BEEN DRINKING FOR TWENTY MINUTES AND I'LL BE ETERNALLY ETCETERAED IF I CAN SWALLOW ANOTHER DROP.

SOME PUBLIC NUISANCES.

THE general deportment of many of the Four Hundred affords an excellent illustration of what money can accomplish when unfettered by good taste. The "fashionables" of this city are marching on with giant strides in their glorious mission of vulgarizing society, and the Metropolitan Opera House seems to be the place selected for their most efficient work. There is something almost pathetic in the complacency of those males and females who put themselves on exhibition in the boxes, overladen with the costliest jewelry, laughing and talking aloud, regardless of the comfort or the contempt of others. If representative ladies from Billingsgate were to occupy these boxes they would bear themselves with more consideration for the audience and the singers, and as this sort of thing is entirely a matter of breeding the problem becomes more and more complicated.

The gulf seems widening day by day between the cultivated American and the New York "fashionable."

A SOCIAL DISTINCTION.

"CROSS his name off the list. His father was a tailor."

"You are mistaken. His father was the clothier."

"Oh, well, that's different. We'll ask him to come."

CLERK (*in auction room*): Wake up! You can't sleep here.

DRUNK: Wazzar mazzar?

CLERK: When you nod you get the auctioneer all mixed up.

ON THE PLAINS.

The Groom: MUCH 'BLIGE FER SPLICIN' US, PARSON, BUT BROKEN TOOTH HANK DON'T SWALLER NO INSULTS.

The Parson: AH—ER—WHA—WHA—WHAT'S THE MATTER?

The Groom: KISS TH' BRIDE OR I'LL SHOOT!

ONE BY ONE ARE THE IDOLS FALLING.

"THIS is a fearfully iconoclastic age."

"Isn't it—why I heard a man say positively yesterday that Daniel Webster never wrote the Dictionary."

STUCK-UP THINGS—Posters.

"TRAIN UP A CHILD," ETC.

A POOR RULE.

"SWEETS to the sweet," I smiling said.
She sadly, slowly shook her head:
"If the universal rule were this
You'd never, never get a kiss."

BOOKISHNESS.

A STORY OF SERENE OLD AGE.

THERE are several good reasons why "The Crime of Sylvestre Bonnard" (Harper's) is worth translating from the French of Anatole France: it is a pleasant story; it is constructed with subtile art, and it is expressed in a flexible style. These qualities have been reproduced gracefully in Lafcadio Hearn's melodious English, which, however, now and then is rather too ornate for modern notions.

The title of the story is misleading, for this is no tale of mystery, bloodshed and remorse. The "crime" is a bit of perfectly innocent law-breaking by a tender-hearted old man, who has the good fortune not to be caught at it. In rescuing a young girl from a school where she was cruelly treated the good *Sylvestre* made himself liable to indictment for the crime of abducting a minor.

He was one of the most learned antiquarians in France, a Member of the Institute, but all his knowledge failed to make him other than a child in sincerity, directness and unworldliness. This story is the diary which he kept in the later years of his life—the guileless record of a beautiful mind and gentle heart.

* * *

ONE charm of the story is the glow of sentiment in it which makes old age a season of pleasant memories and not one of dark forebodings. It is so easy to forget that Nature has a way of saving for old age only those who have had stuff enough in them to pass through the struggles of life. Thus, by reason of the "survival of the fittest," a group of old people should consist of very choice spirits, and careful observation will convince one that this is exactly true. What optimists they are as they sit before the fire and listen to your plans! They have seen the best and worst of life, and at its close they believe in it still. When a wise young woman wants sympathy in a romantic affair she goes to her grandmother, who is living over again the gay days of her youth. When a wise young man wants a little financial lift in an unreasonable but fascinating scheme he explains it to his grandfather, knowing that the old man's mind is filled with visions of the glorious chances he missed when he was young.

* * *

BUT *Sylvestre Bonnard* is much more than a type—he is a unique individual, living among his old books and his memories, true for half a century to the sweetheart of his boyhood, and devoting his last years to the welfare of her daughter. What a fine touch it is when the old man

"WHY HAVEN'T YOU WRITTEN TO ME SINCE SUNDAY, BESSIE, LOVE?"
"OH, TOM, HOW COULD I? TO-DAY IS WEDNESDAY, AND THE ONLY CORRESPONDENCE CARDS I HAVE ARE ALL HEADED THURSDAY."

sells his treasured books for *Jeanne's* dowry! And then the pathetic humor of his getting up in the night to hide away in a closet certain volumes which he must keep, though he calls it "stealing the dowry of *Jeanne!*"

There is a last glimpse of the old man as he sits in a gabled house on the edge of a village and looks through his window out upon a sunny wood. He delights in the weather-vane, which squeaks in the wind; he is finishing a book about insects and flowers; he sees his beloved *Jeanne* and *Henri* come out of the wood, where they have been walking, and they are radiant with youth and smile at his old age. With a blessing for them on his lips he says his "*Nunc dimittis.*"

Droch.

NEW BOOKS.

A FATED PROMISE. By O. P. Caylor. New York: G. W. Dillingham.
The Count of Benzeval. By Alexandre Dumas. New York: G. W. Dillingham.

A QUESTION OF TIME—"When can I get my watch out?"

A MODERN PASTORAL.

SHE.

ST. VALENTINE'S an old man,
His beard is long and gray;
His loves are dead and cold, man,
This many a weary day.

HE.

St. Valentine's a boy, dear,
And beardless laughs he gay;
For loving ne'er may cloy, dear,
Through day, and night, and day.

SHE.

You do believe in love, then?

HE.

Do I believe in you?

BOTH.

The air is bright above, then,
The smiling sky is blue!

W. S. Moody, Jr.

MYTHOLOGY FOR MODERNS.

DIANA AND ACTÆON.

DIANA was a maiden lady who lived not long ago on Commonwealth Avenue in the lovely city of Boston. She had a large circle of friends, maiden ladies like herself, and, like her, renowned for their strong sense of propriety. Actæon was a New York drummer whose business quite often took him to Boston, and he felt quite as much at home in that city as a New York man could.

It chanced one day that Diana and some of her maiden friends took a trip to Cohasset. Each lady had with her a Saratoga trunk, containing her bathing-suit and the complete works of Robert Browning. The morning was passed in reading from the works of the *maestro*, but as the sun climbed high in the heavens the desire to plunge into the much-sounding sea overcame Diana and her companions. They retired to a near-by bathing-house to prepare for the bath.

On the same day Actæon, having sold a large bill of goods to a Boston firm, thought he was entitled to a holiday, so he hired a catboat and sailed down the bay in the direction of Cohasset. Tiring of his boat, he concluded to land. Pulling his boat up on the beach of a bush-clad point, he looked for a shady spot where he might enjoy the cold pork and beans which had been put up at the hotel for his luncheon. As he broke through the bushes on the other side of the point a wondrous sight met his astonished vision.

There, almost within touch, were Diana and her accompanying maidens. Dark-blue bathing-suits of flannel, reaching to wrists and ankles, served more to set off than conceal the symmetrical angularity of their forms. They had removed their hair and eyeglasses, and Actæon, who had never seen such a sight in New York, gazed at them with such a burning look of curiosity and amusement that one of Diana's companions felt its warmth and discovered the intruder.

"Diana! Diana!" she screamed. "We are the objects of profane observation. Hasten, sisters, and let us interpose the opacity of our bodies between our Diana and the impertinent eyes of the miscreant."

With this her companions crowded about Diana, but she, taller and more majestic than the others, towered above their protecting forms.

"Begone, sirrah!" Diana exclaimed. "How dare you, horrid man, profane these precincts, sacred to Diana and her maids?"

"Beg pardon, ladies, I'm suah," replied Actæon. "No offense intended. Permit me." With this he handed Diana a card bearing the words: "J. Q. Actæon, representing Skipper, Sons & Co., Importers of Lima Beans, 68 Worth Street, New York."

At this Diana turned to her companions and a brief consultation ensued. Then she stepped to the front and, fixing her imperious, near-sighted eyes on Actæon, she addressed him thus, in soul-terrifying, nasal tones:

"Actæon, you have dared to gaze on what has never been seen by mortal man—ladies from the Back-Bay district without their crimps and glasses. No ordinary punishment is meet for such a crime, so we have decided to turn you into a dear. Henceforward all Boston women shall regard you as a dear, and you shall be invited to Browning clubs and five-o'clock teas without number. Go, wretched creature, and bear your punishment as best you can."

DIANA SURPRISED BY ACTÆON.

Actæon did not long survive this horrible punishment, and since then no man has ever been rash enough to repeat his offense.

Metcalfe.

GREAT MINDS.

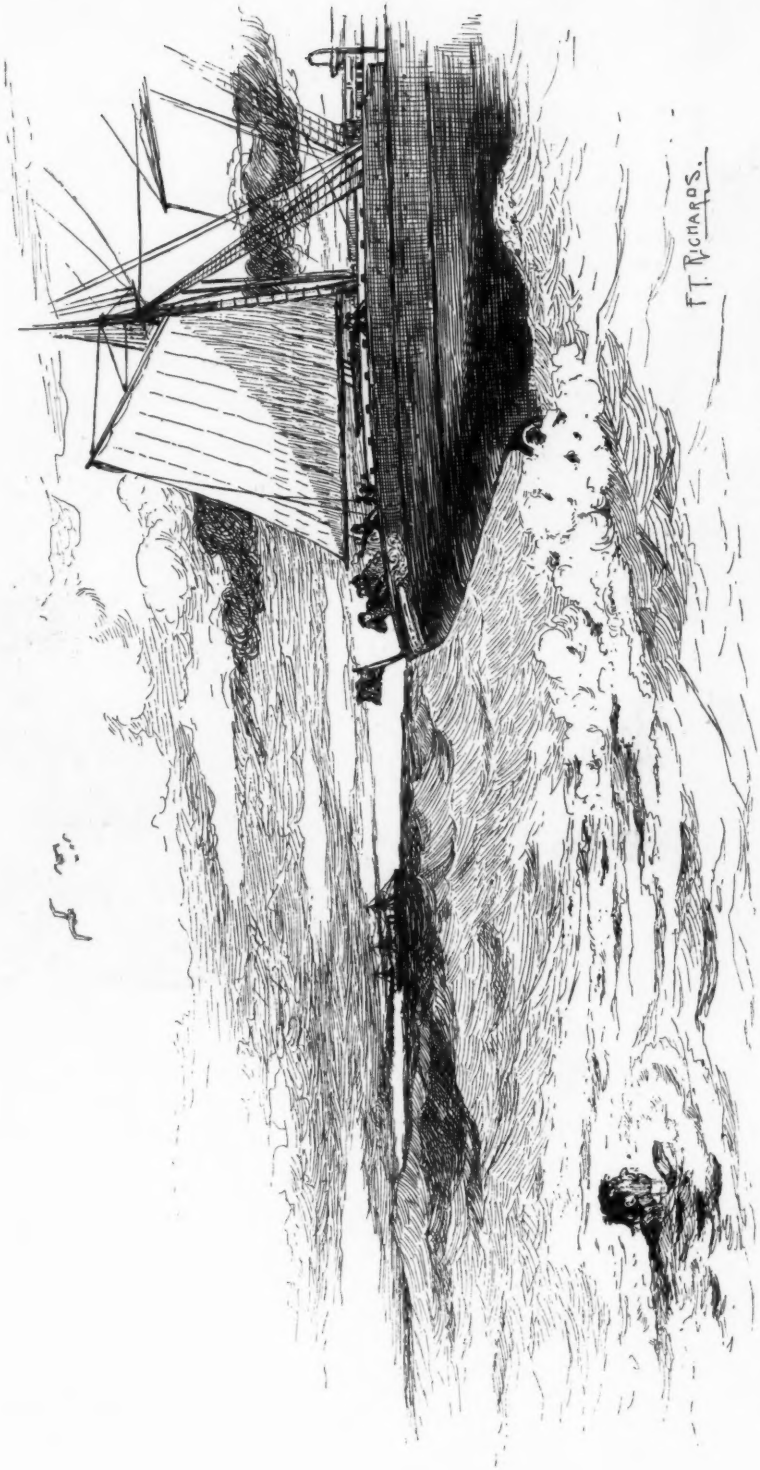
THE Bank President and Cashier meet at midnight in front of the safe.

ENSEMBLE: What train are you going on?

BOSS: The cold weather seems to agree with your relations.

CLERK: Er—how is that?

BOSS: You don't have any deaths in your family since the ball season is over.



Captain of Ocean Greyhound: AWFULLY SORRY YOU FELL OVERBOARD, OLD CHAP—BUT EVERY MINUTE IS PRECIOUS, YOU KNOW, AND I MUST BEAT THAT OTHER FELLOW ACROSS.

A PLAINT.

(TO GOOD ST. VALENTINE.)

HEAR thou my plaint,
Sweet saint,
And be
Not deaf to me!

By cunning art
My heart,
Undone,
A maid has won.

To get it back,
Alack!
I vow
I know not how.

I do not sigh,
For I
Prefer
The heart of her.

Teach me some way
This day
How soon
To gain this boon,

And praise shall be
To thee
Long, long,
In song!

Clinton Scollard.

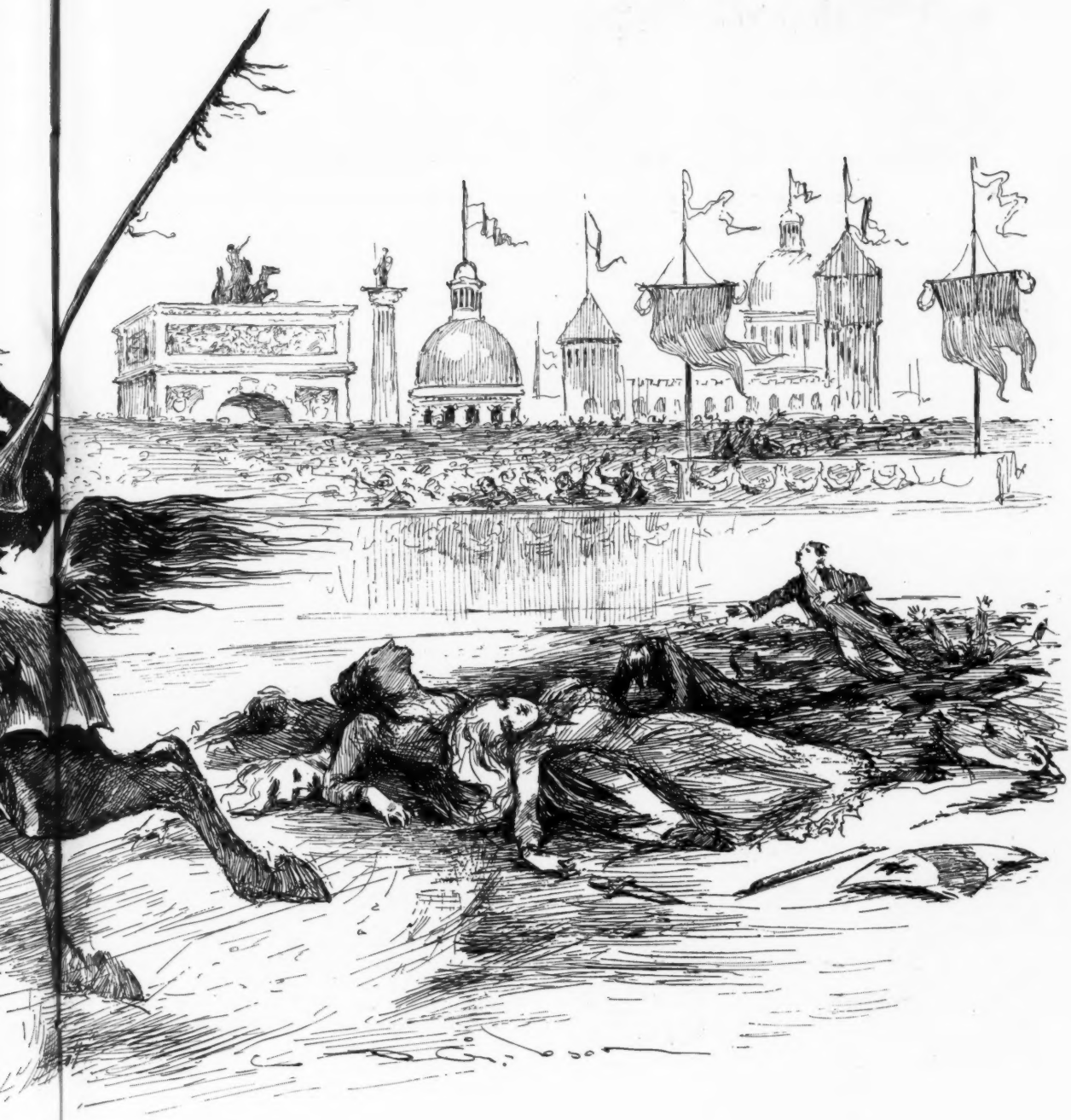
INCIDENT OF THE VOYAGE.

PASSENGER (*for the 111th time*): Captain, there isn't any danger of the vessel going to the bottom, is there?

CAPTAIN (*exasperated*): I'm afraid not, sir.

FEB. XIV. SIR DAN'S T

VÆ VICTIS



IR DAN'S TRIUMPHAL DAY.

VÆ VICTIS!

SENATOR CRANE.

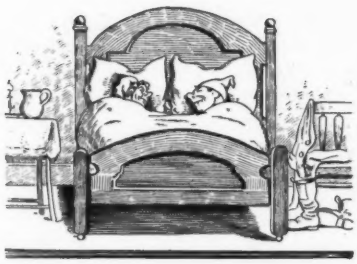
IT is grateful and refreshing to behold a purely American play, dealing with American scenes and people and acted by American actors, putting American dollars into American pockets.

TO put the financial aspect of Senator Crane's success ahead of the artistic is also American, but the fact is so exceptional that it should be given prominence as an encouragement to those Americans who were coming to believe that only foreign talent could secure financial or other recognition in America.

There is, however, a mistake in the playbill. It states that Mr. William H. Crane enacts the part of *Senator Hannibal Rivers.* The truth is that Mr. William H. Crane enacts the part of Senator William H. Crane. If actual senatorial honors should be thrust upon Mr. Crane we should have just such a senator as the one to whom the playwright has given the name of *Hannibal Rivers.* His own Americanism is of such a robust type that the playwrights have done well in removing the leading character of the play so little from the actual man who was to play it.

Granting for the sake of argument that we are discussing *Senator Hannibal Rivers* and not Senator Crane, both actor and dramatists are to be congratulated for preserving on the stage, to be handed down to posterity, one of the best types of American life. It is a type which is rapidly becoming obsolete. It is a type of purely American origin, developed by the circumstances of the country's growth, and one of which no American need be ashamed. The humorous side of the American nature makes this character lend itself easily to the requirements of comedy. *Senator Hannibal Rivers* is the primeval American gentleman. He is a masculine man, and possesses that American adaptability which fits his strong personality to any circumstances in which he finds himself.

Another American type is that of *Mrs. Hilary,* created by Mrs. Georgie Drew Barrymore. It is drawn considerably further from nature than that of *Senator Rivers,* and it is one we would sooner see disappear from American life. In a man, goodness of heart may make up for a lack of refinement. In a woman, no amount of kindliness can atone for coarseness. The loud, bouncing widow, with her heart on her sleeve and an executive ability only to be found in some American women, is excellently portrayed by Mrs. Barrymore and provides a good foil for Mr. Crane's work. The other members of the company are not quite



Mrs. Hobson: WELL, JAMES, WE CAN REST ASSURED THAT MARY AND HER FELLOW ARE NOT DOING ANY SILLY COURTING DOWNSTAIRS; THAT PIANO HAS BEEN GOING EVER SINCE WE CAME TO BED.

"GIVE THREE RINGS, TILLIE, AND SHE'LL KNOW SHE'S GOT CARRIAGE COMPANY!"

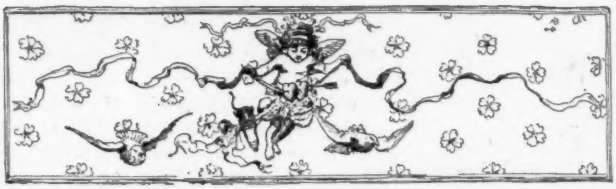
up to the stock-company standard, but furnish an efficient support.

Taken all in all, the performance is a most entertaining one. Our prohibitionist friends may object to *Senator Rivers's* outspoken commendation of the cocktail habit, but they must remember that he is portraying a character to which the cocktail was a very essential adjunct.

Metcalfe.

TED: How is it you have kept from marrying, being such a ladies' man?

NED: By never being in love with less than three girls at once.

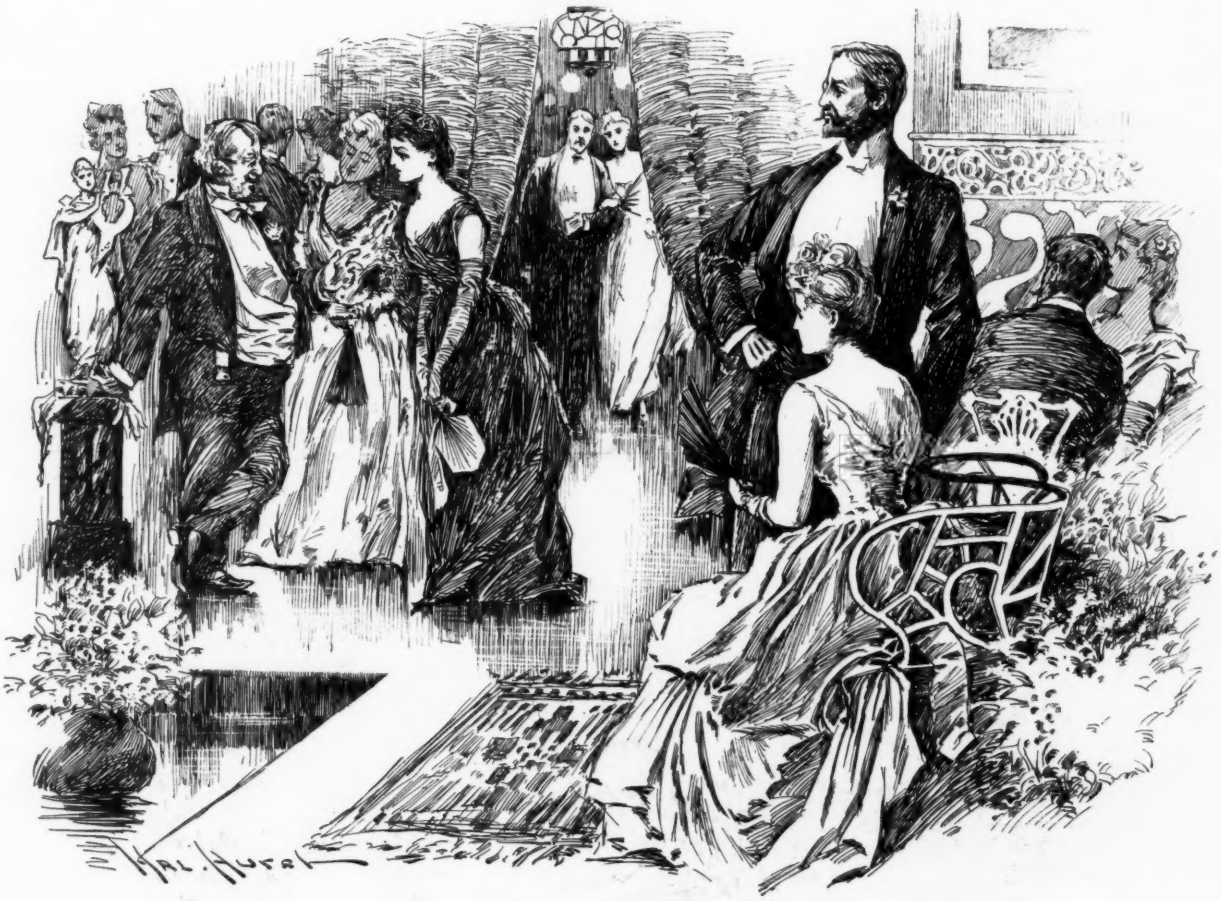


MY WISH.

HASTE, Cupid, to my lady fair,
This softly to her speak:
No Easter offering I care,
Nor Christmas gift would seek.

No New Year greeting can bring glee;
For only this I pine:
'Tis that *ma belle* will give to me
Her heart for Valentine!

H. E. W.



IN BERLIN.

She: I HAVE NO FAITH IN THOSE REPUBLICAN IDEAS. BREEDING DOES TELL, WHATEVER YOU MAY SAY. JUST LOOK AT THAT SPECIMEN, FOR INSTANCE. WOULD ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY EVER ENABLE HIM TO PASS FOR ONE WHO WAS *born* A GENTLEMAN? HOW DOES HE GET HERE, BY THE WAY?

He: PARTLY, I SUPPOSE, BECAUSE HE IS A HOHENZOLLERN AND FIRST COUSIN TO THE EMPEROR.

TWO QUESTIONS.

I.

I HAVE read until I'm weary of the Summer Girl a-dancing
On the hearts of male creation all the seaside season through;
I have wondered where she went to when the autumn leaves were glancing;
When the wintry winds blow cold, what does the S. G. do?

II.

Oh, my poets, have you seen that other rare and radiant maiden,
With her furry garb about her and her bonny hair a-curl,
With her cheeks all rosy glowing, and her eyes with laughter laden?
Might I ask you what's the matter with the Winter Girl?

Kate Masterson.

A VALUABLE MAN.

STREET-CAR PATRON (*wrathfully*): Do you know, sir, that the conductor of car 1,492 is the most insolent, most unfeeling brute that ever held a punch?

SUPERINTENDENT: Yes, and I wish we had more like him.

"Eh? You do?"

"Yes, indeed. You see, he makes so many enemies that he couldn't steal a cent from the company without being reported.

SATISFYING JOHNNY.

JOHNNY: Is it true, Mr. Barnes, that the Japanese black their teeth?

RETURNED TRAVELER: Oh, yes, indeed. Why, in my hotel at Tokio, one night when I came home I saw seventeen pairs out in the hall for the porter to black.

PRESERVING QUIET.

"WHO was that ringing at the front door last night?"

"The policeman."

"What did he want?"

"He wanted the baby to stop crying. It kept him awake."

STANDARDS OF TASTE.

FIRST THEATREGOER (*to stranger, as curtain falls on last act*): Did you ever see "As You Like It" better acted?

STRANGER: Nope; but wouldn't I like to see that same company play "A Tin Monkey"!

Car Driver (*who is behind time*): CAN'T STOP, LADY; TAKE THE NEXT CAR.

BUT KATE BENDER (THE FEMALE ACROBAT) WAS LATE FOR THE MATINEE AND HAD NO TIME TO LOSE.

AVT SCISSORS AVT NVLLVS

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—*Boston Courier.*

MRS. YOUNGBRIDE: How does your breakfast suit you this morning, darling?

MR. YOUNGBRIDE: Just right! I tell you, Annie, it may be plebeian, but I'm awfully fond of calf's liver.

MRS. YOUNGBRIDE: So am I. Don't you think, George, it would be real nice and economical to keep a calf? Then we can have calf's liver for breakfast every morning.—*America.*

TEACHER (*after a lecture on geology*): Now, children, I want to tell you of something I saw in Utah. There is a high mountain there, far from human habitation, yet the top of it is covered with oyster shells. How do you explain that?

BRIGHT BOY: Well, I dunno, of course, but when we lived in Kansas a big cyclone struck our town, and the last I saw of the railroad restaurant it was way up in the air and headin' for Utah.—*New York Weekly.*

MR. GARRICK: Glad to see you, old man. You're just in time to help us out of a difficulty. We're starting a new amateur dramatic club, and call ourselves the "Roscians." We also want a short motto, which will be printed with the name on all our programmes. Something terse, you know, and short—and—well—sort of half apologetic, you know. Now what would you suggest?

MR. CYNIC: Something short—and appropriate—and apologetic—um—let me see—how would "Don't Shoot" suit you?—*Boston Beacon.*

THERE is a story told of the economical qualities of two well-known and wealthy gentlemen living in this city. On a certain night, one of these gentlemen called on the other to transact a little business at the latter's residence. The host lighted a candle that they might examine some papers, but immediately blew it out again when they were through, leaving them both sitting in the dark. "Why did you blow out the candle?" asked the caller. "Oh, we can talk in the dark as well as in the light, and it saves the candle," was the reply. They continued their conversation for a short time, when the host heard some mysterious sounds coming from the direction of the caller's chair, and inquired what his friend was doing. "Why," was the reply, "it's dark in here and no one can see me, so I thought I would take off my trousers to save the wear on them."—*St. Joseph Herald.*

"THERE must be a fire somewhere," said Hobbs.

"Why, I didn't hear the bells," said Nobbs.

"Nor I," replied Hobbs, "but I just saw a messenger boy running."—*Philadelphia Record.*

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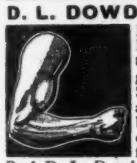

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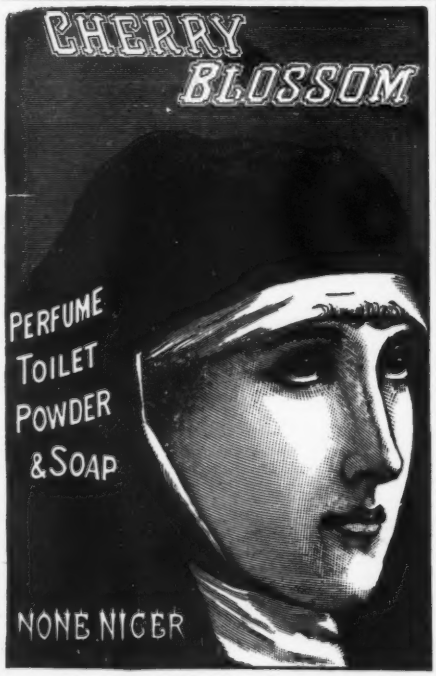

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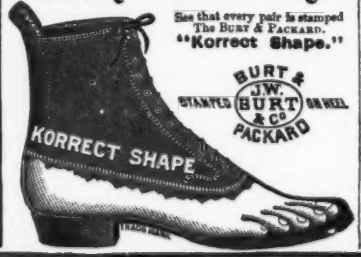

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